



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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March 1, 2007

US- Iran relations

- Sudanese President Al-Bashir held talks yesterday with visiting Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Following his discussions with the Iranian president, Bashir announced that "Sudan and Iran have agreed to transform their political will into a joint strong economical partnership, based on the two countries' various natural resources. We are implementing an economic partnership with Iran by means of joint projects in the fields of oil, dam construction, livestock and transportation." Regarding external pressures exerted on Sudan and Iran, Al- Bashir said that enemies are trying to hinder the development of Islamic countries, adding that Muslims must maintain unity in order to defeat their enemies. "Iran has the right to develop its nuclear abilities for civilian use," he said. Al-Bashir also accused the international community of turning a blind eye to Israel's nuclear weapons, a reflection of the international community's double standards.(*Al-RaiAl-Aam*)

Iranian President Ahmadinejad stated that there are no limits for developing cooperation between Sudan and Iran. "The two countries have shared views regarding many regional and international issues," he said. Ahmadinejad further added that enemies of the two countries are putting great pressure on Sudan in order to undermine the country's plans for development and prosperity. "We are convinced that Sudan will overcome these difficulties," he said. (*Al-Sudani, Al-Sahafa, et al*)

International Criminal Court Indictments

- U.S. State Department Spokesman Sean McCormack stated that the United States fully supports "bringing to justice those responsible for crimes and atrocities that have occurred in Darfur." He further added that "It is now incumbent upon the government of Sudan, we believe, to cooperate with

the ICC." The EU also endorsed the ICC's indictment of two Sudanese and called on the Government to cooperate with the ICC. (*Al-Ayaam*)

- Sudanese opposition forces (the Umma Party and the Democratic Unionist Party) called on the Government to cooperate with the ICC in order to avoid entering into a confrontation with the international community. The head of the Umma Party, Sadiq Al-Mahdi, further pointed out that the Abuja Agreement stipulated the Government's cooperation with the ICC. (*Al-Ayaam*)

- The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) announced that it prefers an internal trial for ICC suspects. The SPLM is expected to hold a meeting today with the National Congress Party to discuss the ICC findings. (*Al-Rai Al Aam, Al-Sahafa et al*)

Darfur

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the government to stop aerial bombings in Darfur, deploring attacks that have killed innocent civilians in the escalating conflict. In a report to the UN Security Council on Wednesday, Ban also called on countries to provide support for a three-phase plan to deploy a joint UN-African Union peacekeeping force to Darfur. (*Al-Sudani*)

- Hundreds gathered in front of the AU compound in Nyala to denounce the killing of two civilians by an AU vehicle and to express objection to the fleeing of the AU soldiers from the scene. (*Al-Sudani*)

The Sudan Morning News is compiled as a service by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan. It presents a partial survey of the current Sudanese press and international reporting about Sudan. Material reported here does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.